

**BERNARD EDISON**

220 NORTH FOURTH STREET

SUITE A

ST. LOUIS, MO 63102

*faxed  
to EPN*

May 2, 2005

ERIC

The 1804 Cohen 3 has actually been delisted as a separate variety. It is from the same dies as the first Spiked Chin, which is Cohen 5. However, the C3 was struck before the die received the injury which resulted in the spiked chin.

It is a very rare die state. At the time I acquired my first example of it back in the 1970s, it was one of only two known. At this year's EAC, there were five examples on exhibit with reports of another two to four in other collections. It is the sort of thing that might well have other examples lying around unattributed, as was the case in the one Ed Fuhrman cherrypicked.

In any case, when I compared ours with Ed Fuhrman's new specimen, he and I both agreed, as did other half cent aficionados, that mine is still the finest known and his is number two. My original acquisition is third finest known.

*Bz*  
BERNARD

mb

Attachment

GILBERT

25% COTTON



EAC 2005

Subj: Re: EAC Region 8 Newsletter #416 - August 15, 2004  
Date: 8/27/2004 3:25:07 PM Central Daylight Time  
From: HalfCent  
To: dc181@olg.com

Congratulations to Ed Fuhrman on cherry picking what is probably the finest known 1804 C3. In 1997 I acquired from Bill Weber the specimen he had purchased at the 1995 EAC Sale, lot #109. It was described there as sharpness 15+, net grade 10 because of an old cleaning and the resultant hairlines. It was also described as the finest of four known examples. Both Bill and I agreed that it was the finest that we knew or had heard of at that time. I have not heard since of a better one until yours appeared. It sounds to me that yours is now the finest, and we can both bring ours to EAC 2005 so that you can confirm that this is the case. Once again, congratulations!

Eric,

You have probably  
seen a number of  
these cores for  
electros, but this  
is the first one I  
have owned. Please  
return.

Tett



~~B. the~~

Apr 25, 02

Tell

1794 1/2¢ C9

I call this an electro.

I did not know this is  
~~Why do you call this~~

a core for an electroplating

job. It is two electros with a  
filling of lead and  
joined ~~at~~ the seam at  
the edge. The seam is  
well obliterated but  
very black. ~~It~~ can be  
copper plated and recolor'd.

Eric

copy



3/7/02

I am delighted that Robin is now home.  
Give her our best wishes that this will never happen  
again.

If you want me to do anything I will. If you are interested and want to take care of it yourself here is the data. George F. Kolbe, P.O. Drawer 3100, Crestline, CA 92325-3100, Tel: 909 338 6527; Fax 909 338 6980; EMail GFK@NUMISLIT.COM

1350 Newcomb, Howard R. ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT LISTING OF A COMPLETE SET OF CHOICE UNITED STATES HALF CENTS FROM THE HOWARD ROUNDS NEWCOMB COLLECTION, INCLUDING MANY VARIETIES. Detroit, undated. Four numbered sheets, all with Newcomb's letterhead printed in blue ink at the head, handwritten throughout on the front of each leaf in pencil. 25 x 15.9 cm. Stripped together at upper left corner, two bisecting fold marks, paper clip marks at top of first and last leaf. Fine. (300) Inscribed in pencil in the upper left corner of the first page: "Original Copy to be kept for reference. HRN." Unique. A remarkable compilation, written throughout in Newcomb's meticulous, inimitable hand. Ninety-seven coins described in four columns, comprising 1) the date; 2) the variety, commonly Crosby numbers for the 93s, Gilbert numbers thereafter; 3) a description of condition, often including notes on rarity, some with die state and proof data; 4) the value. The great majority of the half cents listed are described as being uncirculated or proof specimens. The prices listed range from 25¢ for Gilbert #1/ST close in STATES Sharp Uncirculated/-25 to \$710 (1794 #1/Sharp & Brilliant Red & Olive Proof Highest Rarity & Very valuable \$710). Pedigrees given include the Earle, Jackman and Zabriskie families. An original inventory of an outstanding collection of half cents; particularly important since the collection was dispersed privately. According to *Four American Numismatic Biographies*, the "Newcomb collection of half cents" was sold to B. Max Mehl in 1935."

Email  
ERICNUMIS@AOL.COM

Tel 314 727 0850  
Fax 314 727 0820

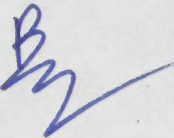
you & Margie Have fun in Paris.  
Our friend is ETIENNE DREYFUS <sup>he</sup> can get you into the plant <sup>area</sup>  
Tel 01 45 67 53 70 67 Avenue de Suffren 75007 Paris



10/24/02

ERIC: I sent the article to Roger Cohen's widow,  
and she was very pleased. . .

BUNNY



10/15/2002

Dear Tatt,

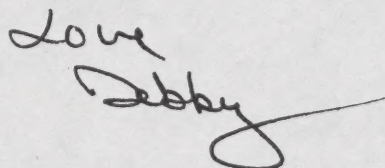
I am Delighted with the  
news you sent me regarding  
Roger's number system being  
used. Thank you for sharing  
it, I appreciate you keeping  
me informed.

The girls - I am well. Amy  
finished college this year and  
is looking into graduate

school. All compliments of  
the half cents. Cate is still  
training horses. I thought she  
would not grow them, but  
what do Parents know.

Take care.

Love



4/1/03

ERIC

I am happy to contribute \$270 to Gregg Silvis's research program. I am not asking for support from EPNNES unless you feel it would be useful for EPNNES to add support for this project to its list of contributions.

Bunny  
Tett

FROM THE DESK OF R. TETTENHORST



R. TETTENHORST

220 NORTH FOURTH STREET

SUITE A

ST. LOUIS, MO 63102

April 1, 2003

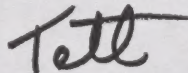
Mr. Gregg Silvis  
27 Fremont Rd.  
Newark, DE 19711-7023

Dear Gregg:

I received my copy of Penny-Wise yesterday. Of course, I was delighted with the appearance of your very thorough article on the 1794 C-6b. I do intend to be at EAC in Cincinnati and will be glad to make a recommendation to the board to support your research. In fact, I will tell them that I will arrange for the contribution to EAC of \$270, or half the cost, if they approve the total amount of the project. This may help them make a favorable decision.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the ANA convention in Baltimore. My wife and I will be on a train through the Canadian Rockies at that time. However, I have a daughter who lives in Bethesda, so I do find occasions to be in the Baltimore/Washington area. Perhaps we can get together in connection with some future visit there.

Sincerely,



R. Tettenhorst

mb



27 Fremont Road  
Newark, DE 19711-7023  
March 25, 2003

R. Tettenhorst  
220 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A  
St. Louis, MO 63102

Dear Tett,

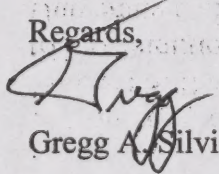
Thank you for your letter of February 25<sup>th</sup>. I have not yet received the latest issue of *Penny-Wise* yet, so I have not seen the 1794 C-6b article in print!

I am taking you up on your kind offer of being "any help" in the future. I have submitted a research funding proposal to the EAC Board. Essentially, I am asking for funding in the amount of \$540 to pursue research in support of an article concerning the contributions of Commodore William Colgate Eaton, Frederick Reed Alvord, and Dr. Wallace S. Bardeen to half cent collecting. The funding would be used for a three-day trip to Hamilton, N.Y. to do research in the Special Collections Library of Colgate University and to also do research in the Madison County (NY) Historical Society. My preliminary research has shown that Eaton, Reed, and Bardeen were closely connected, with the nexus being Hamilton, N.Y., the location of Colgate University.

If you would perceive this project to be worthwhile and merit funding by the EAC Board, I would appreciate your "putting in a good word for me." At the EAC Region 3 meeting in Baltimore this past March 15<sup>th</sup>, I put forth the idea and several EACer's thought that it was a good idea. I have heard from Jon Warshawsky that "the next step is to get the proposal on our April agenda for discussion and a vote." If you are attending EAC in Cincinnati (which I, unfortunately, cannot), do you think that you could help get my proposal at least on the agenda?

Finally, since I am unable to attend the upcoming EAC, I was wondering if you might be attending the ANA show in Baltimore this summer. If you are attending and would like to get together, please let me know. I have some flexibility in my work schedule at that time, so I could make the hour trip to Baltimore on relatively short notice!

Regards,

  
Gregg A. Silvis



R. TETTENHORST

220 NORTH FOURTH STREET

SUITE A

ST. LOUIS, MO 63102

July 18, 2002

ERIC

Here are two interesting e-mails from Frank Wilkinson. He now has the complete pedigree for the proof 1811, which you donated to EPNNES.

Can you still locate the inventory lists of the Dr. Hall and Virgil Brand half cents which he asks about and the sale sheets from Burdette G. Johnson?

He also believes the 1803 C4 on the Newcomb list is now in the Missouri Cabinet.

R. TETTENHORST

mb

Attachments

EPW

this was in  
my filing - Do you  
want it?



Subj:  
Date: 7/12/2002 6:30:11 PM Central Daylight Time  
From: [fwilkinson1@earthlink.net](mailto:fwilkinson1@earthlink.net)  
To: [halfcent@aol.com](mailto:halfcent@aol.com)  
*Sent from the Internet (Details)*

Hi Tett,

Thanks for the information from Eric. It is quite helpful. I think we are really getting there with the very top notch half cents now. It appears that Howard Newcomb was nexus between the old collectors and the new. For instance, the 1803 G1 listed as Unc Olive must be the Dupont-Spence piece, which may or may not have a happy home.

The 1811 C1 in your collection can now be called in its entirety: Black Woman-Benjamin Collins-Jackman @\$150 to Henry Chapman who made a fast \$100 in delivering it to Newcomb, who managed to sell his whole collection to Col Green via B Max Mehl-EPN-MOCAB. I cannot see this pedigree changing very much.

I took the day off and took the kids to the Connecticut State Library(CSL) and then to the dinosaur state part (which is worth seeing). As you know, Joseph Mitchelson donated his collection to the CSL. I can imagine it is "worth" multiples of \$10,000,000.00. The 1794 C2b plated in Breen is on display and is a GORGEOUS coin even with the small damage in LIBERTY. The 1800 struck over a cent is likewise beautiful. I will try to get in to photograph the half cents AND to copy the half cent portions of Mitchelson's inventory book, which should include where he bought the pieces. By the way, they have on display TWO 1907 double eagles in proof-Ultrahigh relief.

Did you get anything at the Webber sale? The prices were incredible!

I was wondering if you could do me a favor? It seems that I have misplaced the inventory lists I got from Eric back in 1991 of the Dr. Hall and the Virgil Brand half cents. I also cannot find all the sale sheets from Burdette G Johnson of half cents. I think I sent you copies of these.

Subj: 1803 G1-Right this time  
Date: 7/15/2002 5:57:07 PM Central Daylight Time  
From: [fwilkinson1@earthlink.net](mailto:fwilkinson1@earthlink.net)  
To: [halfcent@aol.com](mailto:halfcent@aol.com)  
*Sent from the Internet (Details)*

RT

I have changed my mind about the 1803 G1 C4 in the Newcomb list. Clearly, he bought the thing attributed. And it is almost certainly in your collection via Col Green.

The 1804 G9 C7 on the list for which he paid \$50.00 is the one in a CT estate and is the Gilbert plate coin. It has legitimate claims to CC1.

Several years ago you sent me clippings from Hobbies in which T. Elder is quoted about selling the HC Miller 1796 w Pole to Newcomb. Miller supposedly bought the coin in England. This would eliminate the McCoy-Levick-Zanoni from the pedigree.

You also sent me a xerox of pages from the Mehl Hale sale in which Mehl stated he bought the Newcomb half cents and then sold them to Col. Green.

The Dupont Spence 1796 w Pole was offered in the Numismatist by the Celina (Ohio) Coin Company around 1948-I can look it up some time. The denticles absolutely match up. By the way, this is why I still say the Mills coin is the Heritage coin from a couple of years back. The minor details are frequently lost in the photographs of years past.

I really think that what happened is that Newcomb was able (the sucker) to buy a lot of great half cents right after the Gilbert book appeared from the people whose coins were plated in the book. Those guys, including Gilbert & Elder, has likely cherried those condition rarities over the past six decades (1865-1916).



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

*6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105*

Mr. Bernard Edison  
500 Washington Ave  
St. Louis, MO 63101

August 2, 2000

It was very kind of you to give us \$1,000.00 to add to your many gifts made several years ago. Our educational projects and library use have been expanded at the UMSL campus in the Mercantile Library Association division.

We thank you for your generosity. Nothing of value is furnished to you on account of this gift.

Sincerely,

---

Eric P. Newman  
President

4-4-05 - -

ERIC

Note that our specimen appears  
to be the only confirmed  
example of a true proof.

R.T.

FROM THE DESK OF R. TETTENHORST



## Proof 1851 half cents?

### Questions arise concerning their existence

Where are all the Proof 1851 Coronet half cents? This date came to my attention recently when I noticed that neither the Professional Coin Grading Service nor the Numismatic Guaranty Corp. have graded any 1851 Coronet half cents in Proof.

Every other half cent date (for which Proofs were known to have been struck) is represented in either the *PCGS Population Report* or the *NGC Census Report*.

With a mintage of 147,672 coins, the 1851 is the most common business strike among the Braided Hair Coronet half cents.

The 2005 *A Guide Book of United States Coins* by R.S. Yeoman (the "Red Book") contains a listing for the 1851 Coronet half cent in Proof, valuing a Proof 63 at \$4,500 (which is no higher than any other date within the type or denomination). The implication is that the Proof 1851 Coronet half cent is a common coin. In reality, the Proof 1851 Coronet half cent may be much rarer than generally perceived.

In his 1983 *Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents*, Walter Breen cited eight Proof 1851 half cents, four with pedigrees, four without. Breen listed the following examples, with my notes attached:



#### Inside Collecting Ron Guth

**1. National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution:** I assisted in the recent dismantling of the Hall of Money and Medals at the Smithsonian and viewed this coin specifically for the purposes of this article. This example is very well struck, with a partial wire rim, but the surfaces show no prooflike tendencies. The general consensus among the experts who examined this coin, was that it is not a Proof. However, Rick Coleman, a collector-researcher who has done a marvelous job of documenting the appearances of all Proof half cents, notes that "... pieces dated 1849 and 1851 ... do not have the deep mirror surfaces that some of the pieces dated 1850, 1854 or 1855 exhibit." Does this mean that some 1851 Coronet half cents have been misrepresented as Proofs or that the usual standards for determining a Proof should not apply to this date?

**2. Midwest collection:** The pedigree on this Proof 1851 Coronet half cent is a long one that goes all the way back to the 1890s. The coin now resides in the finest collection of U.S. half cents ever assembled and is the primary plate coin in Breen's half cent *Encyclopedia*. Those who have seen the coin agree that it is a true Proof.

**3. The Brobston example (sold by Stack's via a fixed-price list in 1963):** Current whereabouts unknown. Coleman may have seen this example, for he describes the coin as "... red and purple, a trifle dull."

**4. The Proof 1851 half cent discovered**



Images courtesy of Steve Carr.

**EXAMPLE OF "Proof" 1851 Coronet half cent** housed at the Smithsonian Institution. No Proof 1851 half cents have been encapsulated by any grading service.

**by Breen in 1958:** This went into a private collection decades ago and no comments can be made on its condition or appearance.

**5. to 8.** Breen mentioned the existence of these coins, but provided no details as to their whereabouts. They may or may not exist and they may or may not be true Proofs. Coleman lists two additional appearances missed by Breen: one from the 1976 American Numismatic Association Sale and another from a fixed-price list published in 1974.

Finally, Coleman calls the 1851 Coronet half cent from the John J. Pittman Jr. Collection "... not a Proof."

To confirm this information, I contacted Jim McGuigan, a friend/dealer/collector who is a familiar fixture at coin shows and who has built the second finest collection of U.S. half cents ever assembled. Jim has positioned himself perfectly so that he sees virtually every important half cent that comes on the market.

Does he have a Proof 1851 Coronet half cent? No. Had he ever seen one? Jim cited the No. 2 coin listed previously, but could not recall having seen any other 1851 half cent that he considered to be a Proof.

So, where are all the Proof 1851 Coronet half cents? They're either (1) locked away in established collections or (2) the coins that have been called Proofs may in fact be nothing more than well-struck coins made for circulation. Either way, the chances of finding a Proof 1851 half cent on the market today are slim, indeed. If, and when, the grading services certify an 1851 Coronet half cent as a Proof, I suspect the "common" price will be exceeded by multiples.

**Ron Guth** is director of numismatic research for Professional Coin Grading Service. He may be contacted via e-mail at [rguth@collectors.com](mailto:rguth@collectors.com), or by regular mail at P.O. Box 900, La Jolla, CA 92038.

## BERNARD EDISON

220 NORTH FOURTH STREET

SUITE A

ST. LOUIS, MO 63102

*faxed  
to EPN*

May 2, 2005

ERIC

The 1804 Cohen 3 has actually been delisted as a separate variety. It is from the same dies as the first Spiked Chin, which is Cohen 5. However, the C3 was struck before the die received the injury which resulted in the spiked chin.

It is a very rare die state. At the time I acquired my first example of it back in the 1970s, it was one of only two known. At this year's EAC, there were five examples on exhibit with reports of another two to four in other collections. It is the sort of thing that might well have other examples lying around unattributed, as was the case in the one Ed Fuhrman cherrypicked.

In any case, when I compared ours with Ed Fuhrman's new specimen, he and I both agreed, as did other half cent aficionados, that mine is still the finest known and his is number two. My original acquisition is third finest known.

  
BERNARD

mb

Attachment



EAC 2005

Subj: Re: EAC Region 8 Newsletter #416 - August 16, 2004  
Date: 8/27/2004 3:25:07 PM Central Daylight Time  
From: HalfCent  
To: [dc161@olg.com](mailto:dc161@olg.com)

Congratulations to Ed Fuhrman on cherrypicking what is probably the finest known 1804 C3. In 1997 I acquired from Bill Weber the specimen he had purchased at the 1995 EAC Sale, lot #109. It was described there as sharpness 15+, net grade 10 because of an old cleaning and the resultant hairlines. It was also described as the finest of four known examples. Both Bill and I agreed that it was the finest that we knew or had heard of at that time. I have not heard since of a better one until yours appeared. It sounds to me that yours is now the finest, and we can both bring ours to EAC 2005 so that you can confirm that this is the case. Once again, congratulations!

Friday, August 27, 2004 America Online: HalfCent

7/2/97

ERIC NEWMAN

I got this letter from Frank Wilkinson who apparently has had a number of Roger Cohen's envelopes. He enclosed a number of envelopes as well as some handwritten notes, etc., which should be part of our Roger Cohen file. After I go through them, I will put them with the other Roger Cohen material.

The half cent guys really  
try to help each other!

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Bernard Edison. It features a large, looped initial 'B' followed by a series of fluid, connected strokes.

FROM THE DESK OF BERNARD EDISON



6/27/97

TeH,

Here are the balances of the RSC envelopes I've had. They belong to you as part of the notes you bought from Debbie after RSC died. It is so hard to believe he has been gone SEVEN years! I miss him terribly.

Did you get the 1795 C26 in the Catherine Bollowe sale? It is CCI by a couple Miles.

I am putting together a few 1/2¢ articles for PW that I hope you like. I am having Gene Braig check one on the 1804 C6 - his favorite variety. Gene has said he ought to trade you his 1804 C5, finest known. I think it is Mint state.

Smith Kline may move our group to the San Francisco area. We are excited about the possibilities there, but dread the actual move itself.

I made a mistake (another one, actually). In a recent letter I said that a product of primes  $\neq 1$  = a number divisible by two numbers. But Archimedes said "Divisible by a prime NOT in the list of primes". I hate making that kind of error.

I doubt if I'll get to the AWA even though New York City is only 7.3 hrs away. The timing is terrible for the company relocation to the UK.

I do expect to see the catalogs of the Dr.

Montgomery and John J. Pittman coin. I suspect the former may have a coin that would eliminate the year of your embarrassment (1847 1st). JRM doesn't think so.

Lawrence & Cathy are fine

God bless,

Frank

P.S. I saw EBS stock went up. Hope it continues.



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

*6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105*

To: Bernard Edison

October 27, 1999

From: EPNNES

Enclosed are photocopies of additional documents which may clear up the 1988-1989 half cent matters as to ownership. The pieces sent in by EPNNES in 1988 were to be in the Moreira and Robinson auctions early in 1989. A 1922 proof peace dollar is also involved.

I also find there is a difference in the proceeds of Lot # 2000 in the Robinson sale of January 29, 1989 between the published price of \$9900 and the \$9000 credited to you. Which is correct I have no way of knowing.

BC: EPN - same letter sent to Frank Wilkinson, Mike Packard, Bill Weber,  
Rick Coleman, and Jim McGuigan.

R. TETTENHORST  
P. O. Box 14020  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178



June 9, 1998

Mr. Jon Hanson  
P.O. Box 555  
Wellesley, MA 02181

Dear Jon:

I am trying to track down two half cents. I would appreciate any help you may give me with respect to their current location or chain of ownership after the printed material.

- 1) A few years ago, I read somewhere about a Liberty Cap half cent struck over a Massachusetts half cent. Do you know where this reference was? Can you verify that it was an accurate description? Do you know where the coin is now?
- 2) Price list #26 of the St. Louis Stamp and Coin Company (Burdette G. Johnson) lists a 1795 half cent overstruck on an Immunis Columbia cent (see attached). Have you ever heard of this coin? Do you know of any subsequent ownership, including the present location of the coin?

I would certainly appreciate any help that you can give me on these questions. Thanks very much.

Sincerely,

R. Tettenhorst

mb

Attachment



# U. S. Cents—Cont'd

, unc. red, wide date, \$2.50; unc. purple, \$2.00; unc. dark, \$1.50; V. fine, 50c; V. g. 15c.  
 5, compact date, unc. red, \$2.00; unc. some red, \$1.25; fine, 50c.  
 16, large date, V. fine, 35c; V. g. 25c.  
 16, small date, unc. bright red, \$3.00; unc. considerable red, \$2.00; unc. dark olive, \$1.50; abt. unc. olive, 75c; V. fine, 40c; V. g. 15c.  
 347, unc. red, \$1.25; unc. purple, \$1.25; unc. dark olive, \$1.25; abt. unc. olive, \$1.00; Ex. fine, 50c; V. fine, 40c; fine, 25c; V. g. 15c.  
 1848, unc. red, \$1.50; unc. olive, 90c; V. fine, 50c; fine, 15c.  
 1849, unc. bright red, \$1.50; unc. olive, 90c; V. fine, 35c.  
 1850, '51, '52, '53, '54, '56, straight or Italic 5, unc. red, each 50c.  
 1855, unc. olive, 50c.  
 1850, '51, '52, '53, '54, '55, '56, V. fine, each 15c.  
 57, large date, unc. red, \$1.25; fine, 50c; V. g. 35c.  
 57, small date, V. fine, 60c; V. g. 35c.  
 57, flying eagle, unc. 25c.  
 58, small letters, V. fine, 25c; large letters, unc. 60c.  
 59, '60, '61, '62, '63, '64, copper nickel, unc. each, 20c.  
 1, '62, Br. proof, each, \$1.00.  
 1, copper nickel, Br. proof—\$2.00.  
 bronze, '65, '66, unc. each, 25c.  
 '67, br. proof, each, 60c.  
 '68, '69, fine, each—15c.  
 unc. 25c; fine, 15c.  
 proof, \$1.00; unc. 75c; fine, 35c.  
 unc. 50c; '73, proof, 60c; unc. 40c; fine, 15c.  
 proof, 75c; unc. 25c; fine, 15c.  
 c, unc. each—25c; '76, fine, 15c.  
 of, \$1.25; unc. 90c; V. g. 30c.  
 unc. each, 20c.

# U. S. Cents—Cont'd

1880 to 1908 inc., most dates Br. proof, each, 15c; unc. each, 12c.  
 1908, S, unc. 15c.  
 1909, Indian head, Br. proof, 60c; unc., 15c; S, unc. 15c.  
 1909, Lincoln V. D. B., unc., 15c; S, unc. 15c.  
 1909, no V. D. B., unc., 15c; S, unc. 15c.  
 1910, '10 S, '11, '11D, '12D, '13, '13 D, '16, '16 D, '16 S, '17 D, '17 S, '19 D, unc. each, 15c.

# U. S. Half Cents.

1793, unc. perfectly struck up, semi-proof, beautiful golden olive with traces of red, \$100.00.  
 1793, very fine, \$25.00.  
 1793, good, \$3.25; V. fair, \$1.75.  
 1794, date distant from bust, dropped 9, unc. a gem coin, \$30.00.  
 1794, Ex. fine, nearly unc., date close to bust, \$20.00.  
 1794, date close to bust, V. fine, \$15.00.  
 1794, 4 touches bust, fine, strong, \$7.50.  
 1794, date distant from bust, abt. fine, \$5.00; V. g., strong, \$2.25.  
 1794, date distant from bust, V. fine but number of slight edge dents, \$3.00.  
 1794, very wide date, V. g. \$2.25.  
 1794, compact date, V. g. some edge dents, \$2.00.  
 1794, distant date, V. g. strong, slightly bent, \$2.00. V. fair, 75c.  
 1795, unc., olive, plain edge. A beautiful coin without pole, curious die break on rev. from "T" of "States" to "U" of "America." \$25.00.  
 1795, lettered edge, fine, strong, \$6.00.  
 1795, overstruck on Immunis Columbia cent, V. g., plain edge, \$3.50.  
 1795, plain edge, V. fair, 90c.  
 1797, 1 above date, unc. some red but not sharp, \$8.00; fine, sharp, \$4.00; V. fair, 75c.

BERNARD EDISON

PO BOX 14020

ST. LOUIS, MO 63178

June 9, 1998

ERIC NEWMAN

Recently you asked me if I knew the present location of the 1793 half cent altered to create a portrait of Washington on the obverse. On page 81 of Breen's half cent book he lists two known examples:

- in the Mint Cabinet Collection (obtained sometime before 1860), and
- in the Charles I. Bushnell sale by Chapman of June 1882, Lot 1254. Breen states that this was owned by William Sumner Appleton and given to the Massachusetts Historical Society. He adds "When I saw it, it was in Tray 291 with other Washington medals."


Breen also lists two auction records of electrotpe copies possibly representing a single piece.

- William Legget Bramhall auction by Banks, Merwin & Co., May 1859, lot 406.
- Henry W. Holland sale by Woodward, November 1878, lot 2001.

Breen states that one of these eletrotpe is in the Kagin Reference Collection.

You can undoubtedly verify from the Massachusetts Historical Society whether they still own their specimen. I recently acquired an electrotpe. I do not know if it is the specimen from the Kagin collection or that of Bramhall or a third specimen. If Kagin still has his, then there are at least two.

I am still working on the 1795 half cent struck over an Immunis Columbia cent.



BERNARD EDISON

mb



The prices on the list are what HRN Paid!!

June 4, 2002

Frank Wilkinson

19 Holmski Way

Ansonia CT 06401

Dear Tett,

I have been quite busy - hence the delay in responding to your note of 5/6/02. The list is indeed of interest to me. My good friend <sup>Eric - DCT was my original code for your half cents before they went to EPNES.</sup> he is correct in saying that the Newcomb 1/2ds went to Mahlin 1835. However, two of the coins on this list, the 1808/7 and 1811 Wide date were in the Brand collection <sup>Directly</sup> DCT collection, so this is a bit of a disconnect here. 2) It would be absolutely wonderful to lay our hands on the Newcomb inventory book, which I can imagine does exist; a good guess would be the library of Ted Naftzger as he wound up with the original plates of the Newcomb cent book (Green & Collins described their delight at being shown this - was written up in PW a few ago). 3) Needless to say, this was a great collection that we didn't know existed w. most of the coins in top condition (50 or higher).

Where are the coins now? Mostly - I don't know. The ones I do follow:

1793 G4 Ex Earle - Hanson coll. Condition 45-50

1794 G4 Either your or IRM coin (~~Horwath's~~ <sup>possibly G1</sup> ~~not seen by me~~)

1794 G5 (C2) - Most likely the Wolfson coin - not seen by anyone I know

1794 G6 C6, VG - likely the Anderson Dupont coin.

1794 G8 C5 - Likely the Helfenstein or Harriman coin

1795 G6 C5 - Without a doubt, the IRM 1795 C5b!

1796 G1 C2 - Most likely the Partrick specimen <sup>No McCoy Levick Zanon Miller - Newcomb-Gre</sup>

1797 G4 C1 - Likely the Claude Davis coin <sup>AD-RT</sup>

1803 G1 C4 - Almost certainly the Anderson Dupont specimen <sup>No</sup>

1804 G9 C7 - If correctly attributed, the IRM coin

1808 G1, C2 - Your coin

1803 G3 C3 - Your coin, Ex Show off

1811 G2 C1 w. Break - Wallace Lee Coll

1811 G2 C1 Proof - Your coin

1831 & 1836 Sm. Berry Restricker. What does Rick Coleman have to say about these two coins? My guess is that they went to Int A Stack - Partrick

Eric, Frank Wilkinson has an encyclopedic knowledge and memory of top half cents. An avid collector of information. Note that two of your coins - the 1808/7 and 1811 Proof he believes were the coins on Newcomb's list. Do you remember if you obtained them from Mahl or from the Brand collection?

Tett



I think it's information like this that we can use to get Hansen AND Partrick to participate with us. I know for a fact that the 1799 C1 he bought at the Tama A stock sale is double struck! (Go look at the denticles in the catalog.

his is by far the simplest solution. If Meh1 bought some, or all, of the collection in 1935, many of the coins wound up in your collection. - Yes!!!

Life is frantic here. School will be over ~~Millionaire~~ <sup>15th</sup> wedrive the kids to Youngstown Ohio, where ~~Carlyle~~ <sup>our older niece</sup> will meet us and take them to South Bend. Our older niece is nearly 18, has one more year of school, and wants to relocate back to South Bend, while they are gone. Carol I will go to Maine for a few days.

I have written 3-4 articles for PW that I haven't yet sent in

- 1) The 1796 C2 struck on a cut down cent in the Shownwelter collection
  - 2) Liberty Cap half cents w. mint red
  - 3) PROOF that 10 to 30% of All half cents made exist today!
  - 4) Description of a "missing link" in the die deterioration of 1804 C6.
- Let me know which ones you want to see first.

Say hi to the beautiful Marilyn & David. How is Eric doing?

God bless all,

Frank Wilkinson

P.S. I have played w. primes again. I always wanted to know if I could estimate how many (percent) of all numbers could be prime. When one realizes that all even numbers > 2 are not prime, that puts a limit on the % primes. But  $\frac{1}{3}$  of all even numbers > 3 cannot be prime. So I came up w a formula for the maximum % primes

$$\% = \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{2}{3} \times \frac{4}{5} \times \frac{6}{7} \times \frac{10}{11} \times \frac{12}{13} \dots$$
 If you use all the primes out to 100, the % is 12. (As you can see, the denominator is the next prime, & the numerator is  $n-1$ . The percent will get small, but never hits zero!!



TAIE D'OREILLER  
(The Pillow Case)

As of  
March 23, 2003

To find some item new to you  
A pillow case will have to do.

Old Half Cents on your office wall  
(Happily you adore them all)  
Preferred to be closer to you  
Rather than send a billet-doux.

To lift half cents by the edge  
Has been your lifelong privilege

When you're asleep and have a dream  
The topic will be the demi-centime.

The pillowed coin's date is 1795.  
By arranging its numbers you derive  
Your birthday age of 75  
And in 19th century, year 57  
When all the half cents went to heaven.

If proof half cents are left alone  
They'll acquire gorgeous copper tone.

What half cents repeat their amount  
Three different times if you carefully count?

If for a nightcap you have a flair  
A French tricorne is found right there.  
If that chapeau you choose not to wear  
You'll wake with Liberty's streaming hair.

If on the pillow you can't sleep  
Count the dentils instead of counting sheep.

If Marilyn engages you in pillow talk  
Tell Liberty to take a walk.

If the obverse side does not please  
You can turn to the reverse with ease.

To Liberty's bust you will be close  
So you will need no Viagra dose.

If you are ever in a pillow fight  
Ask Liberty first who is right.

Bernard, we wish you many more  
Half cents and decades galore.

Congratulations,

Evelyn and Eric  
Peggy and Andy



Sept 2002

Bernard Edison

The following is found in Frank H. Stewart's  
History of the First United States Mint (1924)

~~Expenses~~ paid

p. 178

April 23, 1795

Talbot Allum ~~(Exp)~~ & her 1076 lbs of  
copper @ 18¢ 193.68

p. 182

December 10, 1796

William Talbot 1914 lbs copper 319.00

These tie in with the use of <sup>struck</sup> T.A.L.  
tokens for planchets for U.S. half cents  
of 1795 and 1797

Em P. Newman